

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0471

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EAGR

SUBJ: RUBBER: IRSG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING,  
LONDON, APRIL 21-22, 1975

REF: STATE 80903 (NOTAL)

1. DESPITE EARLIER APPREHENSIONS, NATURAL RUBBER (NR) PRICE STABILIZATION TURNED OUT TO BE "NON-ISSUE" AT APRIL 21-22 MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL RUBBER STUDY GROUP (IRSG) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (XC), DUE TO INABILITY OF NR PRODUCING MEMBERS OF XC (MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, THAILAND) TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE NR PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME WHICH STILL IN PROCESS OF BEING WORKED OUT THROUGH ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCING COUNTRIES (ANRPC). HOWEVER, NR PRODUCERS EXPRESSED HOPES FOR "ACTIVE PARTICIPATION" IN ANY FUTURE STABILIZATION SCHEME, AND EMPHASIZED THEIR INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH CONSUMERS AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. PRODUCERS FELT, HOWEVER, THAT PENDING FURTHER ANRPC DISCUSSIONS, IT NOT YET CLEAR WHAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE SUBJECTS OR FORUM FOR PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONSULTATION.

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2. CONSUMER MEMBERS OF XC ALL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN

LEARNING OF THE SCHEME'S DETAILS AS SOON AS THESE AVAILABLE, AND INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO STUDY THEM SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER, IN ABSENCE DETAILS, NO CONSUMER DEL WAS WILLING TO INDICATE WHAT DEGREE OF SUPPORT, IF ANY, HIS GOVERNMENT WILLING TO GIVE, ALTHOUGH UK DEL, WITH EYE ON UPCOMING KINGSTON COMMONWEALTH PM'S CONFERENCE, WENT FURTHER THAN OTHERS BY GENERALLY SUPPORTING PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEMES IN PRINCIPLE. XC MEMBERSHIP ALSO ACCEPTED VIEWS OF XC CHAIRMAN (DELL, UK) THAT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE ANRPC MEMBERS THEMSELVES HAD STABILIZATION UNDER STUDY, AN IRSG STUDY (AS SUGGESTED BY IRSG SECRETARIAT IN ITS BACKGROUND PAPER ON STABILIZATION) APPEARED UNNECESSARY. AS RESULT, NO FURTHER ACTION TAKEN ON SUGGESTED IRSG STUDY.

3. PRIOR TO START OF XC MEETING, IRSG SEC GEN ADAMS AND XC CHM DELL SOUGHT OUT US DEL TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF AVOIDING XC DEBATE OVER LINKAGE IN IRSG BACKGROUND PAPER OF NR STABILIZATION AND UNGA DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION. THEY STATED THAT LINKAGE WAS NOT INTENTIONAL ON PART OF IRSG SECRETARIAT, AND OFFERED TO "WITHDRAW" PAPER BY ANNOUNCING IN XC THAT IT WAS INTENDED SOLELY FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF XC MEMBERS, AND WOULD NOT BE CIRCULATED OFFICIALLY TO IRSG MEMBERSHIP, BUT SIMPLY "FORGOTTEN." US DEL ACCEDED TO THIS REQUEST, AND AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNOFFICIAL CHARACTER OF IRSG SECRETARIAT BACKGROUND PAPER AT BEGINNING OF DISCUSSION OF NR PRICE STABILIZATION AGENDA ITEM, MATTER WAS NOT MENTIONED AGAIN IN XC MEETING.

4. NEXT XC MEETING WILL BE THAT OF LONDON REPS, ABOUT MID-JULY, AT WHICH TIME PRODUCER REPS HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AT LEAST SOME PRELIMINARY DETAILS OF THEIR STABILIZATION PROPOSAL WITH MORE DETAILED PRESENTATION LIKELY AT OCTOBER IRSG ASSEMBLY IN JAKARTA.

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